FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

Fighting continued in West Beirut 20 February with the combatants using "heavy weapons," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported, adding that an Amal Movement tank was shelling the area where the Soviet Embassy is located. The radio noted that the casualty toll has risen to more than 150 killed and 350 wounded. Beirut radio reported that, in an effort to reduce hostilities, several military checkpoints and patrols jointly manned by Amal, the PSP, and "Syrian observers" were established. In a statement carried by the same radio, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, commander of the Syrian forces in Beirut, called for the immediate implementation of the cease-fire agreement. "Anyone who persists on the path of sedition and internecine fighting" will be considered a "criminal," the statement warned. Prime Minister Karami, who had previously announced his decision to leave the government, told Beirut radio that he will do his "utmost to alleviate the tragedies and disasters."

Iran-Iraq War

According to military spokesmen cited by INA, Iraqi warplanes carried out separate raids 19 and 20 February on large maritime targets off the Iranian coast. One spokesman added that such action is part of Iraq's "legitimate right" to cut off oil supplies that fuel Iranian aggressions. Another Iraqi military spokesman "vehemently denied" an Iranian report that three Iraqi jets were downed in combat over the Persian Gulf 20 February, INA reported.

An Iranian communique reported by IRNA stated that "some civilians" were killed and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Shiraz, Kuhdasht, Ilam, and their environs "early Thursday." The communique noted that Iranian reprisal shelling was halted at noon. In a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, Iraq acknowledged that three civilians were killed and nine wounded when Iranian shells fell on Basra and nearby villages.

Iraq

In remarks cited by Baghdad radio, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed the "positive results" of his talks with Chinese officials. Ramadan told a Beijing press conference that since the Iraqi leaders "highly trust" the PRC's neutrality on the Iran-Iraq war and its "firm desire" for peace, the question of weapons supply was not among the issues discussed by the two sides, XINHUA reported.

In other diplomatic activity, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze began talks in Moscow, TASS reported. En route to the USSR, 'Aziz stopped over in Amman where he discussed current developments and bilateral relations with Jordanian King Husayn, according to Voice of the Masses radio.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in New Delhi for a joint economic committee meeting, conferred with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, IRNA reported.

Sudan-USSR

A $100 million trade protocol was signed with the Soviet Union, SUNA reported, adding that a Sudanese Trade Ministry official said that the 3-year agreement is a "great step" in the normalization of relations between the two countries.

DRA

In a speech broadcast by Kabul radio, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah declared that the "complicated" process of national reconciliation is "strengthening" despite the reaction of "extremist opponents." Najibullah noted that 4,000 prisoners have been amnestied. The term of military service has been reduced and "concessions" to the military are under consideration, he said. Speaking at the inauguration of Kabul University's Islamic Studies Research Center, Najibullah affirmed that the party will accord theologians the traditional status, and he called on them to contribute to eradicating Afghanistan's "age-old backwardness."

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Najibullah: Reconciliation 'Strengthening'
LD192233 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Speech by PDPA Central Committee General Secretary at inauguration of DRA Islamic Studies Research Center at Kabul University on 19 February — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed ulema, dear friends: It is a pleasure once again to have the opportunity to talk to you in this institute of science and culture. I am sure that this meeting will bring the hearts of the Muslim people of Afghanistan closer together.

I proudly declare that, with the will of our people and with the proposal of the third nationwide conference of ulema and clergy of the DRA, the country has chosen national reconciliation as the certain path to achieve peace and tranquility. The party and our government are observing their great responsibility in connection with the reconciliation. A unilateral cease-fire was announced. As a result of a general amnesty, around 4,000 prisoners have been released so far. The gates of the cities have been opened to visits by armed opposition elements. The term for military service has been reduced. A number of concessions have been considered for our soldiers and officers. State aid has increased for the poorest strata of people. The true Muslims who were misled either by U.S. propaganda or by regional reaction are trying more decisively to establish contact with the revolutionary authorities. More than (?100) heads of armed groups have signed contracts to carry out military service in the DRA Armed Forces.

Some of them have laid down their arms completely. A large number of emigres are returning home with the removal of the obstacle created on their path by the rulers of Iran and Pakistan. In a word, the process of reconciliation is growing and strengthening. The most important thing of all is that we hold the initiative.

Meanwhile, however, this process is complicated. Perhaps its primary stage has been implemented today. That is [word indistinct] is being created. Who is standing with us for peace and who is standing against us for war? Reconciliation is not (?easy). Reconciliation is the feeling of our people and is [word indistinct] of our people. Those who really want peace cannot [words indistinct). We promise you and all our compatriots that we will proceed along this path step by step with the broad peaceful resources of national reconciliation.

We were not surprised to see the reaction of the extremist opponents of revolution to our initiative. The counterrevolutionaries are determined to defeat and frighten us. But they will not achieve their aim. We have strong nerves. They have attacked three to four times more often than before the peace-loving cities and [word indistinct] in response to the cease-fire.

The enemies shot down a civilian airplane in Khowst a few days ago, as a result of which 36 persons were martyred. The enemies of reconciliation are resorting to savageries not seen since fascist Germany. Here are some examples: Some time ago in Parvan the rebels killed emigres who had returned from Pakistan. The commanders have restricted people's movements in Maydan Shar. [Word indistinct] in the district of Tagab, Kapisa Province, beat up an old man who had spoken in favor of the national reconciliation policy and fined him 50,000 afghanis. The rebels captured a youth who was returning from Konduz with the Revolutionary Council announcement on reconciliation and hanged him on a tree near his house. Mohammad Khoja, a commander of the (Harakat) band in Qarah Bagh, killed his brother because he had visited Kabul. Another commander of the same region cut the ears off two persons who had visited Kabul. Yaya, the commander of the [name indistinct] band, killed four inhabitants of the Kharaba village in Helmand Province, who had gone to the city to buy foodstuffs. Sofi Rasoul, commander of the [name indistinct] band, killed a person and cut the ears off two other persons because they had visited Kabul.

We could continue to recount such savageries.

All these deeds will certainly be confronted with crushing blows. The penalty for these deeds will find any killer. What should we now call those oppressors who raise their hands against their Muslim brothers? We remember the sacred words: No muslim should kill his Muslim brother. In this case who is the true Muslim, we or they?

Esteemed ulema, Afghanistan is an Islamic country. Our people's thoughts and ideas, the level of their social awareness, and the historical, mutual link with Islamic principles have a direct effect on the country's growth. [passage omitted]

I emphasize once again that our party's policy is not a technical maneuver but it has been built on the basis of our understanding of the objective need of our society. We understand the situation of our society very well. We know that we live in a backward country. We decided after the victory of the revolution to comprehensively remove the age-old backwardness. I am sure that our country, by creating a new political system and building a just and caring society, will become an example among Islamic countries, because our toiling people are very talented. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan, more than any other Islamic country, has the capacity and talent since the victory of the April Revolution, to become the cradle of civilization, a fertile ground for fostering ulema and scientists, and a center for learning Islamic studies in the region and throughout the Islamic world. We will remove the age-old darkness with the forces of light and the brightness of science.

The revolutionary state has the duty, based on its principled policy, to prepare extensive foundations for the expansion of science. This duty emanates from the character of our revolution and the Islamic principles of the people of our country.

It was emphasized at the extraordinary plenum of the PDPA Central Committee that the party will give the necessary protection to the theologians according to the high traditional status that they had, have, and will continue to have in Afghan society. The salary of our theologians will be increased.

Another valuable and historic step is being taken in this direction today. A great scientific center, the center for Islamic studies

research, is being opened for the first time in the history of our ancient country.

We look forward to the blossoming of our country with complete confidence. We are sure that this research center can be transformed into a center for fostering the talent and interest of researchers who have hitherto not had favorable conditions for research on Islamic studies. The possibilities for scientific research in the various fields of religious and [word indistinct] including Sunni and Shi'ite, bibliography, [word indistinct] and translation of the scientific and historical books and works will be prepared in this center. This center will help the young researchers in the field of Islamic research and students of Islamic knowledge. It will maintain constant cooperation with other educational centers in the country and will establish fruitful and constant contact with the scholars of Islamic studies in various other countries. It will hold scientific Islamic conferences and seminars within the country and internationally. It will be transformed into an educational religious establishment.

As I have been informed, it is planned to open two colleges for religious jurisprudence and Islamic learning and a third college for [word indistinct] for a period of 1 year. The number of students and the number of those who want to be enrolled will be decided by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment and the Council of Ulema and Religious Leaders.

The courses will start from the beginning of the new academic year in September 1987. The foundation for the library has already been laid. It should be transformed into the greatest treasury of Islamic books in various languages. We believe that the DRA Islamic Research Center will advance the process of its further growth in order to become a society or a university of Islamic education and research.

The leadership of Afghanistan will continue to assist in further expansion of this center and transfer the necessary buildings for the various colleges.

Concerning the teachers: You should invite very prominent and very talented teachers in religious studies, not only from Afghanistan but from countries such as Iraq, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, because Islam is a unique religion. I am sure that we will see the good results of our measures. [passage omitted]

Our compatriots suffered while living away from home in abject conditions in order to have an Islamic education. We, however, should prepare conditions for training and creativeness so that people will come from other Islamic countries to study. [passage omitted]

Esteemed ulema and patriotic clergymen, as the guardians of truth against falsehood and as the heirs of the prophets — peace be upon them — summon people to righteousness, social justice, peace, and consultation and raise your credible voices even more in favor of the struggle to bring about reconciliation in the country. Always keep active the minarets of the mosques, places of worship, and communal centers in urging peace: Invite the opposition forces to peace and to the start of a fraternal life in our united homeland.

The PDPA and the DRA Government support all your [word indistinct] and give every assistance. We believe that our esteemed ulema and clergymen — worshippers of God — will discharge their duties, obligations, and responsibilities for the blossoming of the homeland and the tranquillity of the country's Muslims and will encourage them toward the light, brightness, calmness, and toward a life of peace. Our toiling Muslim people warmly support the task of reconciliation and I am confident that these people of honor, pride, and nobility will not allow the satanic forces to breach it.

In this great Islamic mission, all of us — the party, government, patriotic ulema, noble clergymen, all social organizations, creative forces, and all Muslims of our country — are united in a single objective: to achieve peace in our persecuted land.

Finally, I deem it necessary to congratulate all religious Muslims of the country, ulema, and scholars of the Islamic religion on the opening of the DRA national Islamic research center, and I hope that this center properly carries out its duties for achieving its objectives concerning the (?blossoming) of science and Islamic education, and (?utilizing) this for securing justice and social justice. And success verily comes from God.

applause]

Protest Lodged With UK on Meeting With 'Extremist'

LD191530 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the British Embassy in Kabul was summoned yesterday afternoon at 1500 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where a protest note was given to him by the responsible sections. The note, citing mass media reports, states that UK Deputy Foreign Secretary Eggar recently received an extremist element and expressed once again the support of his government for the extremist elements and their provocative stand for continuing the bloodshed and fratricide in Afghanistan, which is creating obstacles in the way of the national reconciliation process.

It was mentioned in the note that at a time when the DRA has taken a historical initiative by proclaiming the national reconciliation policy to end the war and fratricide in the country and to ensure nationwide peace, the people of the DRA and all of progressive and peace-loving mankind support this humane policy.

Receiving an extremist and rebel element in the British Foreign Office, and the hostile expression by British authorities in intensifying war and fratricide in our country are negative factors in this process, contradict the noble efforts of the people of Afghanistan, and are against the accepted international norms and standards of international law.

The DRA Foreign Ministry condemns these actions by British authorities as interference in the internal affairs of the DRA, and protests against them strongly.

Keshtmand Returns From USSR; Talks Reported

LD192125 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, who led a [word indistinct] delegation to the Soviet Union for an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Government, arrived in Kabul at noon today.

BIA reports that Comrade Keshtmand and his delegation were welcomed at Kabul airport by Comrades Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications; Lieutenant General Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Lieutenant General Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of internal affairs; members of the party's Central Committee and of the Council of Ministers; members of the General Staff of the Armed Forces; (?the ambassador) plenipotentiary and members of USSR Embassy in Kabul.

According to another report, Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and his delegation, left Moscow for home this morning after an official working visit at the invitation of the USSR Government. [passage indistinct]

As part of his official visit to the USSR, in Tashkent today Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand met with Chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers Kadyrov; Chairman of the Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers Comrade Khodzhamuradov; and with Comrade Chairman of the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers Comrade Khayeyev. The meeting was held in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere and was attended by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR in Kabul Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev.

According to a BIA correspondent's report, useful and friendly talks were held at this meeting between the DRA and Soviet republics on all-round cooperation, in particular about broadening border trade between the DRA and the fraternal Central Asian republics of the USSR in the interests of both countries. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Keshtmand Visit

For Moscow coverage of the visit to the USSR by Prime Minister Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand see the South Asia section of the 20 February Soviet Union *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Iran's Velayati Meets Foreign Minister 19 Feb

LD191554 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 19, IRNA — Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Indian counterpart N.D. Tiwari participated in the fourth session of the joint Iran-India economic committee which opened here Thursday.

During the session, Tiwari, underlining the need to further expand Tehran-New Delhi relations, said that both Iran and India should continue their cooperation in the interests of the two countries.

Tiwari expressed hope that the current session would take a big stride towards expansion of Irano-Indian full-scale cooperation, in various fields.

Velayati, reiterating Iran's 'neither-East-nor-West' policy as the corner-stone in its foreign relations, said that both Iran and India enjoy plenty of rich potential which can be exploited for strengthening bilateral cooperation.

Velayati cited India as an influential member of the Non-aligned Movement with which the Islamic Republic wants to have firm relations. He also said that there are still new grounds to be explored for expansion of Tehran-New Delhi relations.

The committee will meet again on Friday.

Economic Cooperation To Expand

BK191725 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpt] India and Iran are to concentrate on specific projects to expand their economic cooperation and increase bilateral trade. At the ministerial-level joint commission meeting between the two countries held in New Delhi today, the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, proposed that these projects could be in cement and textiles. The two countries could also think in terms of transfer of technology. The Iranian side to the talks was led by the foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They agreed that trade between the two countries should be diversified to include nontraditional items like engineering products. At present India has an adverse balance of trade with Iran mainly because of the huge oil imports from that country.

On Kudremukh [Iran-aided iron ore project in Karnataka], the two sides are to work together to resolve the problems that have arisen. Officials will also work out details to give concrete shape to proposals for expanding trade and economic relations. [passage omitted]

Views Trade With Commerce Minister

BK191324 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has expressed his country's desire to strengthen commercial and economic ties with India. Dr Velayati, who arrived in New Delhi yesterday to attend the 2-day session of the Indo-Iranian joint commission, today called on the commerce minister, Mr Shiv Shankar. He stressed the need for identifying new areas of cooperation to enlarge bilateral trade. Dr Velayati suggested that India can consider direct import of crude oil from his country on term contract basis.

Mr Shiv Shankar pointed out that the balance of trade with Iran continues to be adverse for India and can be corrected through increased Indian exports. Earlier, Dr Velayati had talks with the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari. He also called on the prime minister.

Meets With Prime Minister Gandhi

LD191436 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 19, IRNA — Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here Thursday and discussed with him Tehran-New Delhi relations and issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Velayati said that it is quite tangible that both Iran and India favor long-term friendly ties which he said would have a direct effect on the future political equations in the region.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Velayati said that Iran is firmly determined to continue its defensive war until the final victory and punishment of the aggressor (Iraq). He also briefed Gandhi on Iranian victories in the Karbala'-5 operations launched east of Basra on January 9.

Emphasizing on Iran-India cooperation in international forums, the foreign minister said that the Islamic Republic wants the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf waters to be free of the superpowers' intervention.

In response, the Indian prime minister, recalling the warm and sincere talks which he held with President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran during the non-aligned summit meet at Harare, lauded the cordial Tehran-New Delhi relations and cooperation in various fields such as the Non-Aligned Movement.

In another development Thursday, Velayati discussed Irano-Indian economic relations in a meeting with Indian Commerce Minister Shiv Shankar here. In this meeting, he said that Iran is ready to supply India with its oil requirements.

Velayati arrived here on Tuesday at the head of an eco-political delegation to participate in the fourth session of the joint Iran-India economic committee.

Meets Human Resources Minister 20 Feb

LD201041 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 20, IRNA — Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Indian Minister of Human Resources Development P.V. Narasimha Rao, here

Thursday night where the two discussed Iran-Indian cultural relations.

Referring to common cultural aspects between Iran and India, Rao said that at present the Persian language was being taught in some 50 Indian universities. The two countries could promote cultural ties through exchange of professors, students, and publications, Rao added.

Velayati who is heading the Iranian delegation to the fourth Iran-Indian economic commission, stressed importance of cultural relations between the two countries and hoped that the session would lead to useful results in this respect. He also called for exchange of professors, students, and granting of scholarships.

Meanwhile, the industrial-technical committee of the commission met Thursday evening. The director general for international affairs of the Iranian Industry Ministry, Mas'ud Qamsari, speaking to IRNA after the session said that the Indian side expressed interest to provide communications and radar services for the Bandar-e Abbas-Bafq railway, in southern Iran. The proposal, he said, will be reviewed.

Mizoram Attains Statehood; Government Sworn In

BK200308 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] In Mizoram, the MNF [Mizo National Front] government headed by Mr Laldenga has assumed office. Mr Laldenga was sworn in as chief minister a short while ago by the governor, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, at Aijal. Earlier, Mr Saikia, who had been Lieutenent Governor of the union territory had taken over as the first governor of Mizoram after it attained statehood [on 20 February]. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the chief justice of the Guwahati High Court, Justice Mr A.N. Saikia, at Raj Bhavan. The three ministers — Mr Zoramthanga, Mr Tawnluia, and Mr Ruaichhina — will be inducted into the MNF cabinet later today.

The secretary to the election commission told our correspondent that a notification constituting the new 40-member Mizoram Assembly has been issued.

Gandhi Inaugurates Mizoram as 23d State

BK200931 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Mizoram today became the 23d state of the Indian union, and a new MNF [Mizo National Front] government headed by Laldenga has assumed office. Inaugurating the new state at a colorful function at Aijal this morning, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said that a package of economic measures has been evolved for the development of Mizoram. He announced that the center will provide all help for the development of the new state.

Mr Gandhi recalled the 20 years of trauma, hardship, and insurgency in the state and said these are now behind us and peace has been restored. It has opened up a new era for a fuller emotional integration of the state with the rest of the country. Developments should get top priority now. He, however, cautioned that material progress should not hamper the rich cultural heritage and traditional values in the state. He also asked the Mizoram government to protect the interest of minorities as it is being done elsewhere in the country. District councils set up for them should get the required strength in the local government.

Mr Gandhi also underlined [the] need to pay attention toward the progress of the youths and said the value of freedom movement should be inculcated in them. We must build up our own identity as Indians.

Referring to the recent assembly elections, Mr Gandhi said the contest was most friendly and this trend should continue. differences must be settled across the table. [passage omitted]

The prime minister will later fly to Itanagar to inaugurate another new state, Arunachal Pradesh. It will be the 24th state in the Indian union. The Assam and Meghalaya governor, Mr Bhishma Naralan Singh, today took over as the first governor of Arunachal Pradesh. Later, he also administered the oath of office and secrecy to the chief minister, Mr Gegong Apong, and his council of ministers.

Yaqub Khan To Stop in USSR en Route to Geneva

LD200948 Belgrade TANJUG in English
0115 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 20 (PTI) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will stop-over in Moscow in February 23 on his way to Geneva to attend the United Nations-sponsored proximity talks on the Afghanistan problem.

His talks with the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, will focus on the time-frame of Soviet troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan and the possible complexion of the future government of national reconciliation in Kabul.

Since Khan's last visit to Moscow early this month, Soviet leaders have had intensive consultations with the Afghan leaders; the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati; and the United Nations special envoy, Diego Cordovez.

19 Legislators Joining New Akali Party Denied

BK191629 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The Punjab finance minister, Mr Balwant Singh, has said that he has always been and will continue to be a loyal and active worker of the Shiromani Akali Dal led by Mr Surjit Singh Barnala. In a statement issued in Chandigarh this evening, he said the Akal Takht is supreme and our services are always available to this highest temporal seat of the Sikhs.

The acting head priest of the Akal Takht, Jathedar Darshan Singh, earlier released in Amritsar a list of 19 ruling Akali Dal ministers and members of Legislative Assembly who, he claimed,

have extended their loyalty to the new setup of Akali Dal. The list includes the name of Mr Balwant Singh. The chief whip of the ruling Akali Dal, Mr Baldev Singh Mann, has denied that all the 19 legislators have signed the pledge as claimed by Jathedar Darshan Singh. He said barring the former agriculture minister, Mr Harbhajan Singh Sandhu, the remaining 18 legislators had only signed a letter acknowledging the supremacy of the Akal Takht.

A Sikh convention organized by the president of Shiromani Akali Dal, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, is opening in village Longowal tomorrow. The convention, apart from other things, will discuss the problems facing the Sikh panth [community] and the Akali Dal. According to a party spokesman, a large number of religious, political, and social leaders, and people from different walks of life from Punjab and other parts of the country are expected to participate in the convention.

Home Minister, Opposition Parties View Action Plan
BK191723 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today met representatives of the opposition parties to discuss a comprehensive all-party action plan to counter the threat to the country's unity and integrity held out by the recent events in Punjab. The meeting discussed a proposal to make joint visits of all party leaders to central places in Punjab.

It was attended by representatives of CPI, CPI-M, Akali Dal, Longowal; RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], AIADMK [All Indian Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], Janata, PTCA [Plains Tribal Council of Assam], BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Lok Dal, and the National Conference.

Border Troop Pullout From Ravi-Chenab Completed
BK191559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] India and Pakistan have completed the pullout of their troops from the Ravi-Chenab corridor. The pullout had been set out in the accord between the officials of the two countries early this month to de-escalate tension on the border. A Defense Ministry press release in New Delhi says that Pakistan has confirmed the pullout of its troops to their peacetime locations and has also disengaged them from the forward positions in the Shakargarh bulge.

On India's part also, the troops have returned to their peacetime locations. Delegations of the two countries are scheduled to meet in Islamabad later this month to continue discussions on the pullout of troops from the remaining Indo-Pakistan border.

Bangladesh Tribal Refugees Number Over 42,000
BK200304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] In Tripura, 230 more tribal refugees have crossed over to the Indian side [from Bangladesh]. There are now over 42,000 refugees. The Border Security Force at (Korbuk), south Tripura, said the four existing overcrowded camps in the state will not be able to house any more refugees.

Tripura Issues Ordinance on Extension of Detention
BK200935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] The Tripura government has promulgated an ordinance which provides for increasing the maximum period of detention during investigation. The ordinance incorporates a new section in code of criminal procedure to restrict the power of judiciary to grant bail in certain offences.

Our Agartala correspondent reports that the ordinance has been issued after parts of Tripura were declared as disturbed areas by the state government.

GNLF Strike in Darjeeling Against 'Police Excesses'
BK191612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] In West Bengal, a bundh [strike] was observed in the three subdivisions of Darjeeling Sadar, Kurseong, and Kalimpong today. The call for the bundh was given by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] in protest against the alleged police excesses in (Mirik) yesterday. They were also demanding the withdrawal of paramilitary forces. According to the police, the (Mirik) police station was set on fire by some GNLF supporters.

Police Firing, Curfew in Gujarat's Nadiad Town
BK191603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in some areas of Nadiad town in Khera District from noon today following some violent incidents in the wake of a bundh [strike] call. Police burst teargas shells and fired two rounds to disperse those indulging in stone throwing and arson. No one has been injured in the incidents. The situation is now reported to be under control.

Meanwhile, according to the state government spokesman, the children participating in the eighth national schoolchildren's competition in Nadiad are safe. The venue of the competition is outside the areas under curfew.

Karachi Reports Ravi-Chenab Troop Pullout

BK191640 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] India and Pakistan have completed the withdrawal of their troops from the Ravi-Chenab corridor along their common border. Radio Pakistan's New Delhi representative, quoting a spokesman of the Indian Defense Ministry, says delegations from the two countries are scheduled to meet in Islamabad later this month to continue discussion on achieving disengagements along other areas of the border. The Indian spokesman said the pullout of troops by either side was accomplished in a phased manner and was monitored by the director generals of military operations of the two countries.

The de-escalation of tension on the border was worked out during talks last month between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India.

Junejo Sends Message to Gandhi

BK200811 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] The prime minister has felicitated his Indian counterpart on completion of pullout of troops in the Ravi-Chenab sector as envisaged in February 4 agreement. In a message to Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said it was an auspicious beginning for realization of the common aim of defusing tension along the border. He reaffirmed the determination of his government to extend all cooperation in reaching agreement on further measures to pull out troops from other sectors. The return to peace-time locations would surely contribute to the restoration of normalcy, he added.

Press Note on 19 Feb Bomb Explosion in Peshawar

BK191557 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] A press note issued in Peshawar this evening says that nine persons were killed and sixty-one were injured when a bomb exploded in a truck at (Garhi Qamar Din) village near Peshawar today. Most of the injured were children at a nearby government primary school. The injured were immediatedly taken to Lady Reading Hospital where 30 of them are being treated; the rest were discharged after first aid. The press note says the local people, reacting to this incident, burned some vehicles of the Afghan refugees parked near the site of the bomb explosion. Police and relief units immediately rushed to the spot and gained control of the situation.

At an emergency meeting of the NWFP cabinet in Peshawar today the situation arising out of the bomb blast on Kohat Road in Peshawar today was discussed in detail. The chief minister, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, presided over the meeting. He directed the law enforcement agencies to tighten security arrangements and make every effort to safeguard the life and property and dignity and honor of the people. The meeting lauded the efforts of the doctors and paramedical staff who gave first aid to the injured. Later, the chief minister, accompanied by the members of his cabinet, visited the injured in Lady Reading Hospital. He directed the hospital authorities to treat the injured free of charge. He prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

AFP Reports Further

BK191452 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 19 (AFP) — An angry crowd ransacked an Afghan guerrillas' office, burnt a dozen of their vehicles, and forced shops to close in the bordering Pakistani town of Peshawar after a blast in a primary school building Thursday morning killed 13 people and wounded more than 50, mostly children, police and witnesses reported.

Students chanting anti-Afghan refugee slogans poured into the streets and clashed with police as emotions ran high over allegations that the presence of the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan was causing law and order problems in the country. President Mohammed Ziaul Haq denied the accusations only two days ago.

Police said a powerful blast ripped through (Garhi Qamar Din) school at 9:03 a.m. (0403 GMT) when the school's 500 students were attending their morning assembly. The explosion originated from a truck parked outside the school which is located close to the office of an Afghan rebel organisation, Jamiat i-Islami.

Police suspected "saboteurs" planted the bomb but witnesses said the crowd which gathered following the blast apparently blamed the incident on Afghan rebels who they claimed were transferring munitions.

A 13-year-old girl, a truck driver, and a mason died on the spot in the explosion which destroyed the school building, carved out a two-metre deep hole, and damaged several nearby buildings and vehicles. Another eight people died on the way to hospital. Two more bodies retrieved from the debris could not be identified.

Witnesses said that after attacking the Jamiat's office and setting on fire 12 vehicles belonging to the organisation, the crowd ransacked another Jamiat office behind the school before being pushed back by the besieged Afghan refugees firing warning shots.

Students from Peshawar's polytechnic college boycotted classes and also took to the streets where hundreds of youths from other schools, ordered closed in mourning, joined them in a procession, stoning vehicles and damaging shops, the witnesses said. The students, shouting slogans against the Afghan refugees, the Pakistani Government, and the United States, clashed with police, forcing frightened shop keepers to pull down their shutters. Police were reported to have used truncheons and tear gas in several places inside Peshawar to quell the violence.

Afghan rebel sources refused to comment on the situation, reported to be tense in the city which has been rocked by bomb blasts since the beginning of the year. The local press has accused Afghan secret service KHAD agents of carrying out bomb attacks to foment local-refugee rifts.

SRI LANKA

LANKA PUWATH Reports Changes in Tamil 'Command'

BK200615 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0526 GMT 20 Feb 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 20 (LANKA PUWATH) — Velupillai Prabhakaran, confused, insecure, and severely demoralised by the series of recent crushing defeats at the hands of the Sri Lankan security forces and attacks by a rejuvenated EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], in addition to the self-destruction of three of his chief lieutenants including explosives expert 'Ideas' Vasu, has made a number of changes in his operational 'command' 1, Jaffna sources told LANKA PUWATH today.

The new Jaffna town 'commander' is a 'Major' Aruna. However 'Lieutenant Colonel Kittu alias Krishna Kumar remains as overall 'commander' of the Jaffna peninsula operation. At Vavuniya, Lieutenant Colonel Ajith Mahattaya has been sacked and replaced by 'Major' Kuhan. Mannar, where the LTTE took another terrific beating by the security forces, also has a new LTTE commander, 'Major' Radha.

In the east, where the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] are being attacked by the EPRLF gang of terrorists, the leadership has been divided into two. Eastern Ampara terrorist operations are led by 'Major' K. David while 'Major' Kumarrappan remains as the LTTE chief in Batticaloa.

'Lieutenant Colonel' Santhosam is the leader at Trincomalee.

But, the Jaffna sources said that most of these 'commanders' were now hiding in the jungles after the recent debacles they and their cadres experienced.

Meanwhile, reports reaching LANKA PUWATH from Madras state that the Uma Maheshwaran led PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] is planning to make a comeback and is already campaigning against the LTTE and asking the people of Tamil Nadu to help them eliminate the LTTE.

AFP: Tamils Say Troops Kill 37 Civilians

BK191126 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Madras, India, Feb 19 (AFP) — Thirty-seven Tamil civilians were killed, 15 of them women and six children, by Army soldiers in eastern Sri Lanka Wednesday and another 37 taken into custody, the main Tamil guerrilla group said here Thursday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), fighting for a separate state in Sri Lanka's north and east, said in a press release that 17 of those killed had been hacked to death and the others shot in the Mudur area of Trincomalee District. The LTTE, which sustained major losses in a recent offensive by government troops, said 37 civilians had been taken away Wednesday in neighbouring Kantala.

At least 50 Tamil civilians and 16 LTTE rebels died Saturday in an explosion set off accidentally by rebels near Jaffna, according to reports from Colombo. The release here Thursday said incendiary bombs had been dropped by the Air Force on Pallamadu and Periamadu forest areas in the island's north-west Mannar District and a forest fire was spreading. Several thousand people had taken refuge in the forest during the offensive, but no loss of life was reported from the incendiaries, the LTTE said.

The group also said that Army camps in the coastal area of the northern peninsula were continuing to fire mortars on to civilian areas. The LTTE has many of its safe houses amid civilian dwellings.

The LTTE said a week ago that some 130 Tamil civilians and 20 combatants had died on Tuesday February 11 in the government's offensive. That report followed official statements that the LTTE had massacred 28 Sinhalese civilians the Saturday before. And the previous week the government denied witness reports that more than 200 civilians had been massacred by soldiers in eastern Batticaloa District.

Meanwhile, a Tamil newspaper published here in the south Indian port where Tamil guerrillas have set up their headquarters, said the LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakran had returned to India from Sri Lanka to resume talks to end the conflict through Indian mediation. The LTTE here denied the report in the *Dhinakaran* (daily), but it had equally at first denied reports that Mr Prabhakran had gone to Sri Lanka in the second week of January. Mr Prabhakran reportedly went to re-establish his supremacy over local LTTE commanders who had taken too much power during his absence in Madras.

Reliable guerrilla sources said that the LTTE's Jaffna commander known as K .tu, alias Krishna Kumar, had been deprived of command of th town, but allowed to remain in charge of the peninsula. Jaffna is essentially the LTTE's Army headquarters in an area which had been under its effective control until the recent offensive, which has left the picture on the peninsula still unclear [passage omitted].

Khamene'i Delivers Tehran Friday Prayer Sermon

LD201318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Simultaneous with the happy anniversary of the birth of the beloved daughter of the prophet of Islam — the holy arch truthful one, Fatimah the Refulgent, may God's peace be upon her — the religious-political Friday prayer venues throughout the country have been witnessing the holding of this Muhammadan rite today.

The resisting and selfless citizens, by their vast presence at Tehran University and in the surrounding thoroughfares, chanting the slogan 'War, war, until victory!'; emphasized the resistance and steadfastness of the Iranian people until final victory is achieved by Islam's troops, and observed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his prayer sermons, referring to the auspicious and happy birth anniversary of the holy Fatimah the Refulgent, may peace be upon her, Tehran's Friday imam said: Women in Islamic society should adopt the way of life of struggle and jihad waged by that great lady as a model for their private and social lives.

The president of the Republic then referred to the anniversary of the glorious uprising by the Tabriz people on 18 February 1978. He said: At every juncture Tabriz' citizens taught us that one should not forget the bloodshed by self-sacrificing people; had that movement not taken place on that day, events might have adopted a different form.

On the anniversary of the downing of a passenger airliner by aircraft of the Iraqi regime, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i also paid great tribute to the memory of martyr Mahallati, the imam's representative to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and other martyrs who fell during that tragedy.

Continuing his speech, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the suspension of air raids launched by aircraft of the aggressor Iraqi regime on the population centers in our cities. Discussing Saddam's aims in launching raids on Iranian cities, he said: The Ba'thist overlords together with the spying Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] imagined that by launching air raids on our cities' population centers and by massacring our defenseless and innocent people they could cover up their defeats on the fronts, particularly during the victorious Karbala'-5 and -6 operations, and could weaken the people's morale for continuing the battle until final victory.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i added: During its 6 weeks of air raids on Iranian cities the Iraqi regime subjected a total number of 65 cities and districts to air raids and bombings by its aircraft. As a result of 236 bombing missions and 28 missile launchings 3,035 of our innocent compatriots were martyred and another 11,150 were wounded. Among the dead and wounded could be seen a vast group of small children, women, and old and ailing men.

Responding to these barbarous bombings, on 11 February our people created yet another epic of resistance and selflessness. The world once again saw the value of the Iranian people's steadfastness; regarding this steadfastness the Iraqi regime, the Hypocrites, and the backers of the Iraqi regime lost heart. The enemies came to understand that by such methods and strategems one could not knock out of action this resisting nation.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: These ruthless crimes have proved to us that as long as Saddam Husayn exists in the regional political arena it is not possible to bring about peace and security in this region; on the other hand the malignancy, baseness, and treachery of the Hypocrites in continuing these crimes have become clearer to our people.

Referring to the people's resistance in all areas, the president of the Republic then said: The Iraqi regime's air raids on Iranian cities opened a new chapter in popular resistance — building trenches and creating shelters in homes and cities — and it is not at all necessary to be threatened by bombings for us to build shelters; we should not stop building trenches and creating safe shelters merely because the suspension of the criminal Iraqi raids on our cities and our country's population centers has been announced. The Iranian nation should prepare itself for all kinds of threats.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council concluded: Our stance, right from the beginning of the war to the present time, is the same that we have declared. We oppose striking at cities and population centers. Although we were patient for 4 years about the Iraqi regime's raids on innocent people behind the fronts, nevertheless we arrived at the conclusion that one should retaliate against this merciless enemy in kind. Here we formally declare that as long as the Iraqi regime does not strike at our cities we, too, will not strike at theirs, but should that regime begin such actions we would forcefully retaliate in kind. No matter whether he raids or does not raid our cities we will deliver our decisive and crushing blows at his body until he is wiped out!

Khomeyni Receives Women's Day Celebrants

LD191224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the dear daughter of the noble Prophet, her holiness Fatimah al-Zahra, and on Women's Day, a large group of sister Hezbollahi met the imam of the nation at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran in two seperate sessions this morning. [passage omitted]

Musavi Cited on U.S. Hiding Bush's Role in Scandal

LD192311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] In the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the joyous birth of the holy Zahra, may God's peace be upon her, which were attended by more than 300 Friday prayer leaders and preachers from Tehran Province, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi considered that Saddam's [Husayn] new ploy to halt attacks on cities as proposed by the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], which has been giving Saddam the cue to attack the cities, springs from the courageous resistance of our

country's people in coping with these attacks. He said: The attacks against cities was the greatest weapon that the superpowers placed at the disposal of Saddam but it happened to have sacred consequences causing a greater mobilization of the people against the puny enemy.

The prime minister also mentioned some of the details of the political scandal of the United States' efforts to renew its influence, and said: The documents that were published after the arrest of CIA member William Buckley by religious Lebanese forces show that the United States' political disgrace is more deeply rooted than has been revealed, and the Americans are trying to end this disgrace by misleading public opinion inside and outside the United States. In this connection and with regard to the role of Vice President George Bush in Robert McFarlane's trip to Iran, Musavi stated: Party factions in the United States are trying to hide Bush's role in this political disgrace.

During these ceremonies, Mr Rafiqdust presented a report on the self-sacrifices of the combatants of Islam in the Karbala'-5 operational sector and said: The fire volume that our combatants employed in these operations was unprecedented during the length of the war, and the majority of the weaponry was produced by us thanks to the unstinting support of our serving government.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Lebanon, 'Plots'

LD191836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] [Passage indistinct] A statement announced: Unfortunately, in circumstances whereby not many days have passed since the bloody, heart-rending sedition connected with the clashes of the camps, when the wounds of the wronged and oppressed Lebanese people have not yet healed from being the targets of the fires of domestic and foreign plots, and in circumstances whereby U.S. superpower warships have dropped anchor off the coasts of Lebanon in order to intimidate the struggles waged by the region's Muslim, freedom-loving nations, particularly those of the state of Lebanon, under the pretext of fighting terrorism and, if possible, to retrieve their lost credibility; and also at a time when the Muslim, freedom-loving, and anti-Zionist forces in Lebanon, in the present conditions, more than ever before need united ranks, readiness, and vigilance to confront the plots and traps laid by world arrogance and their dependents on the arena in Lebanon and the region, a specific area of Beirut has again become a target for a bloody and seditious plot. It is a plot which is primarily and inwardly aimed at dealing a blow at Islamic, freedom-loving, and anti-Zionist forces, which in recent years have inflicted the greatest losses and casualties on their U.S. and Zionist enemies and their appendages. It is natural for the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider this sedition as being tantamount to changing Lebanon's course from a center of struggle against the enemies, into a compromising, nervous Lebanon and a tool of foreigners. This sedition, either knowingly or otherwise, will create the most appropriate conditions for aggressive intervention by the superpowers by creating disorder within domestic ranks.

Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing the need to prevent bloodshed, as was displayed during the camps' war, sharply condemns these clashes and devotes all its capacities toward ending the situation and creating tranquillity and stability in this fighting, Muslim country. Toward this end, under no circumstances will it remain indifferent to plots that would weaken the Islamic and fighting stance of Lebanon.

IRNA Reports U.S. Fear of Islamic Turkey

LD181340 Tehran IRNA in English 1241 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] Athens, Feb 18, IRNA — Growing fears in Washington of Turkey becoming a second Islamic Republic or 'Iranian model' has led President Reagan to seek more military and economic aid for Ankara for 1988 as an effort to buttress the secular regime against rising Islamic revival, writes Greek Daily *Avyi* quoting unnamed American diplomatic sources in Washington.

For the 1987 fiscal year, Congress had reduced the proposed 739 million dollars aid to Turkey to 490 million dollars. In an effort to mitigate the decrease, the Reagan administration granted 312 million dollars from the 490 million dollars as direct grants and the remaining 178 million dollars in low-interest credits.

Besides, the administration announced its readiness to give an additional aid package of 300 million dollars in form of military equipment, including 40 F-4e jet fighters.

Avyi, in a report from its Washington correspondent published Wednesday, says the U.S. mass media has lately stepped up its campaign on the 'dangers of pro-Iranian elements in Turkey'.

The American CBS network in a recent coverage from Istanbul emphasized that the 'Turkish Khomeyni,' a reference to Ahmad Kaplan who lives in exile in West-Germany, also had influence and support in the Turkish Army.

An American newspaper, *The Wall Street Journal*, warned that the 'serious rise of Islamic fundamentalism' in Turkey could result in non-investment of foreign capital in the country. Disillusioned by six decades of unfruitful secular experiment, the Muslim nation of Turkey is once again focussing its attention on Islam as an alternative to capitalist and socialist ruling systems.

A noted American columnist, Smith Hempstone, writing for *The Washington Times* remarked "That despite Mr Ozal's real accomplishments, when the Muezzin's wail calls the faithful to prayer, Ataturk's dream of a secular, democratic, and European Turkey seems far from fulfilled."

Afghan Islamic Movement Leader on 'Occupation'

LD191338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Mawlawi Nasrollah Mansur, leader of the Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan, yesterday afternoon met and conferred with Mo'ayeri, the prime minister's political deputy.

During the meeting Mawlawi Mansur submitted a report on the internal situation in Afghanistan and the occupation forces to the prime minister's political deputy. He stressed: The Muslim forces will continue the war until the aggressor forces have been completely withdrawn. They will resist to the last drop of their blood.

Referring to the sensitivity of the Muslims toward U.S. plots, he said: We will not be fooled by America's cunning plots. We will resist any suspicous move.

He stressed: The Islamic Revolution of Iran, which occurred with God's blessings under the wise leadership of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the world Muslims, is a model for every genuine Islamic movement.

Referring to the consequences of the aggression against Afghanistan, he added: We condemn the occupation forces and stress the importance of fighting in accordance with Islamic ideology. We consider Afghanistan a Muslim country. We will not tolerate the presence of foreign forces in our Islamic land under any circumstances.

He said: The Muslim forces must beware of the suspicous moves of the two superpowers of the East and West. They should not let their noble Islamic movement be diverted from its main course.

Finally, the prime minister's political deputy made a few remarks about the neither East nor West policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the need for unity among struggling Muslims, Afghan groups.

Prisoners' Pardon Implemented; 140 Released 20 Feb

LD191801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The Islamic Revolution public prosecutor's office in Sistan and Baluchestan Province announced: On the occasion of the Day of God on 22nd Bahman [11 February] and in accordance with the order of the deputy leader, His Grace the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, the pardon granted to the prisoners by Zahedan's Islamic Revolution prosecutor's office has been implemented. Thus, in the first phase, 250 persons are eligible for the pardon of his holiness the imam; of this number 140 will be released tomorrow, while the rest of the prisoners have had their sentences reduced.

According to the statement the subsequent phases of the pardon will be promulgated in later statements.

Ministry on 'Surveillance' of 'Hypocrites'

LD191316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Here is a Central News Unit report: Following the recent crimes committed by the Zionist enemy in bombing the residential areas of our cities, and the cooperation and collaboration of Hypocrite agents in guiding the enemy, the Intelligence Ministry has issued a statement. It stressed: It is necessary for the Hezbollahi nation to do its best to keep these mercenaries of Saddam's regime and world arrogance under surveillance, and report any information they may gain from them to the information headquarters of the Intelligence Ministry as soon as possible. You can contact them around the clock at telephone numbers in the provinces.

Citizens Urged To Keep Building Raid Shelters

LD191413 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The headquarters for the support of bombed areas issued the following statement:

In his exalted name. O revolutionary nation of Iran. Once again, your awareness and alertness foiled the plots of the Zionist enemy. As the exciting march by the Iranian nation on Jerusalem Day, in 1363 [22 May 1984], led to the defeat of the Zionist enemy in his attacks on residential areas [as heard], the presence of our revolutionary people in marches on 22 Bahman [11 February], on the one hand, and the all-round participation in the preparation and general mobilization program to combat air raids, on the other, have led to the defeat of the enemy's new plans. Last night, that is exactly 3 days after the start of the 10 days of training and general mobilization to combat air raids, Saddam's regime announced that it would halt its criminal attacks on residential areas temporarily.

This action of Saddam's regime is a new ploy to stop the course of preparation and general mobilization to combat air raids and to halt the shelter building. Therefore, we must not be fooled by the enemy's empty propaganda and continue building shelters and our general mobilization and training, to spite international Zionism and its Hypocrite agents. We must increase our readiness by building shelters for individuals, families, and groups.

Organizations Tasked To Build Shelters

NC200853 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, discussions were held and decisions made at a meeting convened in the headquarters for the support and coordination of executive affairs in bombed areas yesterday afternoon. The prime minister's deputy for executive affairs, as well as a number of ministers and heads of government offices, attended this meeting. The conferees also studied a plan for the building of shelters. A number of ministries, as well as state and Islamic Revolution organizations, were then assigned the task of implementing this plan, particularly with regard to the construction of shelters at all the schools in Tehran's 16 educational districts and at certain hospitals and public buildings.

The same report notes that Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi assigned executive organs and administrative councils in the provinces the task of implementing similar plans with the people's assistance after the necessary coordination had been completed.

The following ministries and foundations were tasked with the construction of shelters: The Ministries of Agriculture; Post, Telegraph, and Telephone; Roads and Transportation; Housing and Urban Development; and Defense; the Tehran Province Reconstruction Jihad; the Islamic Republic's Central Bank; and the National Iranian Gas Company. Each of these organizations will take part in the construction of shelters at schools in Tehran's 20 [as heard] educational districts. In addition to this, the Foundation for the Oppressed has undertaken the task of building shelters at schools in three of Tehran's educational districts, the Ministry of Power in two districts, and the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps in two districts. The same report adds that the Ministry of Heavy Industries and the Ministry of Industries and Mining will provide the material and equipment needed by these organizations for the construction of such shelters.

SAIRI Chairman Views Future Iraqi Government

LD191607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], at a news conference at noon today discussed Iraq's current political and economic situation, the existing differences within that country's leadership, and the rift that has emerged between that regime's allies such as France and the Soviet Union. He said: At the conference of cooperation of the Iraqi nation this matter was discussed in detail, views were exchanged about the future government in Iraq, and the legitimate rights of the Kurds, and some results were achieved.

Hakim noted that a committee has been set up to follow up such decisions. About the new Iraqi regime he said: It is for the Iraqi people to choose the type of regime they want in that country. Under the 14-point resolution passed by the cooperation conference, a general election will be held after the fall of the Saddam regime, and the type of government to be set up will be determined.

He said: In recent operations the unity between the Iraqi and Iranian Mojahedin forces was quite striking. The Iraqi Mojahedin, composed of six battalions, participated in the operations in sensitive strategic locations ahead of the Iranian forces, achieving some success.

Noting the fact that SAIRI is the representative of the Islamic movement of the Iraqi people, Hakim said: The activities of the Iraqi Mojahedin will not be confined to the battlefronts; they are also active in the liberated areas in northern Iraq. He added: SAIRI now has a number of plans under which the liberated areas will be converted into a center for the activity of Iraqi Mojahedin.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim stressed: A conference on human rights in Iraq will be convened soon.

Iraq's Weapons Suppliers Responsible for Crimes

LD191427 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1116 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpts] During the current week waves of fresh troops moved toward the battlefronts to join other combatants of Islam. Their extensive departure to the front has made it possible to make use of the immense and destiny-making force of the mobilization warriors on a larger scale. The daily *Jomhuri-ye Eslami*, in this week's political commentary, has discussed this issue to which we draw your attention:

The daily *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* writes: Our friends and foes know the objective of dispatching the Corps of Mahdi, may Allah hasten his glad advent, to the front. Everyone is aware that the people's great enthusiasm for joining this victorious corps took place while our cities were under the barbaric bombings of the aggressive enemy. [passage omitted]

The Baghdad regime is still continuing its barbaric raids on resistant cities of our homeland, using Russian and French planes and weapons donated by the East and the West. Naturally, the Baghdad regime supporters and those providing arms and equipment for the war criminals are directly responsible for these crimes. They cannot justify their collaboration with the war criminals by such excuses as the existence of a friendship treaty between themselves and the aggressors. Basically, such investments in support of the aggressors will, in practice, have no effect whatsoever on the fate of the Baghdad regime. This is a point raised by the foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran during his intensive and frank talks with the Soviet officials in Moscow. He pointed out that Islamic Iran has made up its mind and is determined to punish the aggressor so as to uproot any idea of aggression from the region and bring peace and security.

The successful and enlightening trip of the foreign affairs minister to Moscow was in fact the most appropriate opportunity to inform the Kremlin leaders of the Islamic Republic's stances. It provided suitable grounds for continuing talks within the framework acceptable to the Islamic Revolution. Islamic Iran is in favor of good-neigborliness and improving relations with its neighbors within the framework of 'neither East nor West', and maintaining independence. That is, Islamic Iran intends to remain independent, free from domination of either of the two power blocs. At the same time, as far as conditions and interests dictate, it will think of maintaining and expanding bilateral relations in a healthy environment. To establish relations without submitting to domination is one of the basic lines of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy and its most clear interpretation and latest example can be seen in the Moscow talks.

The successful trip of the foreign minister and his entourage to the USSR made it possible for Moscow to become directly familiar with the viewpoints of Islamic Iran vis-a-vis the imposed war and the issue of Afghanistan. Although the principles and basic stance of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy toward these two issues have not changed, it was necessary to raise these stances, directly and without any middlemen, with the Kremlin authorities. [passage omitted]

About the imposed war, the issue is quite clear. The Baghdad regime has attacked this Islamic land and has committed countless crimes. Logic and common sense dictate that the Baghdad regime should be exposed as an aggressor and war criminal; and a treatment suitable to these characteristics should be applied against the leaders of the Baghdad regime. Naturally, support for the aggressors and investment for survival of such a regime cannot be acceptable. In any case, it will not change the fate of the Baghdad regime, but it could have an adverse effect on the Tehran-Moscow ties. Basically, it is not in Moscow's interest when after every bombing and following any atrocity of the Baghdad regime, the people pour into the streets and demonstrate the extent of their disgust and hatred against those who supply the weapons.

In their meetings the Kremlin officials have constantly spoken of their positive attitude toward the Islamic Revolution and their tendency toward expanding relations. But, they have chosen a different path in action. Naturally, a nation cannot consider the protectors of its enemies neutral and take this declaration of neutrality seriously.

There is no future for the Baghdad regime. Moscow can sense this very well and can plan its future actions regarding the imposed war accordingly. This is possibly the most logical action that could be taken by a country that calls itself impartial.

Further on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

3 Iraqi Fighters Downed in Gulf

LD201033 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 20, IRNA — Three Iraqi Mirage fighters were downed in the waters of the Persian Gulf Friday noon by the Iranian Air Force.

The news was announced in the Tehran Friday prayer congregation.

Communique No 2,752

LD191738 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 19, IRNA — Some civilians were martyred and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Shiraz, Kuhdasht, Ilam, and its nearby villages early Thursday, said a military communique here.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,752 said that Iranian long range artillery continued shelling Iraqi economic-military targets in Badrah, Khanaqin, Naft Khaneh, Mandali, Dosheykh, Zurbatiyah, Chuwartah, Khurmal, Shanadari, and 'Ali al Gharbi until Thursday noon, inflicting heavy losses on them. The Iranian reprisal shelling was halted at noon Thursday.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses in the northwestern fronts Wednesday when their positions were reconnoitered and shelled by Iranian artillery fire. Enemy fire was also silenced minimized [as received] and enemy mine fields were destroyed.

Iranian forces, maintaining upper hand, traded artillery fire with Iraqi forces in the western border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam Wednesday, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when some enemy trucks carrying personnel in the Khosravi region were hit by Iranian artillery fire Wednesday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts on Wednesday, killing or wounding a large number of enemy soldiers.

Iraqi engineering operations in [name indistinct], southern fronts, and reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters in Talayeh in the same front were effectively checked by Iranian artillery fire Wednesday, the communique concluded.

IRGC, Iraqi Kurds Stage Operations

LD191849 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] According to the General Staff Command of the three arms of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Peshmerga of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq, along with forces under the command of the Ramadan Headquarters, center for the irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, assaulted the Zionist Iraqi forces in the (Sur Tahkah), Zakhu and (Sirrik) regions. They set ablaze the forces' (Sur Takhah) base, and by destroying the bunkers of this battalion, inflicted some losses and casualties.

In these operations a number of the Ba'thist enemy's troops were killed and wounded; the corpses of some remain where they fell. Troops belonging to the (Dondiri), (Zarazah), and (Sahashkar) companies were attacked, and some enemy ammunition and equipment were taken as booty and the base was captured. Four Ba'thist enemy bases in the (Sirrik) region were also subjected to an assault, and all the forces stationed in these bases were killed or wounded.

The combatants, after carrying out these joint operations, returned safely to base.